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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 04487 021636Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------041689 021640Z /42
O R 021447Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1328
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR YO US
SUBJECT: THE BILL ON MIHAJLOVIC MONUMENT: YUGOSLAV DEMARCHE

REF: (A) STATE 153379 (B) STATE 154256

1. I WAS CALLED TO FSFA AFTERNOON OF JULY 2, IN FONSEC'S MINIC'S NAME, BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MILAN VERES TO BE READ A PROTEST ON THE SENATE ACTION. IN HIS LENGTHY STATEMENT, VERES MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:
--ON BEHALF OF MINIC HE WAS MAKING "THE MOST ENERGETIC PROTEST" OVER THIS ACT.
--THIS SERIOUS ACTION COULD CAUSE A "DIRECT PROBLEM" IN OUR RELATIONS.
--THIS DECISION IS WITHOUT DOUBT A PROVOCATION FOR ALL YUGOSLAVS.
--THERE IS AMPLE ARCHIVAL EVIDENCE WHICH DEMONSTRATES THAT DRAZA MIHAJLOVIC WAS A QUISLING AND A FASCIST COLLABORATOR.
--A LAW APPROVING A MINUMENT ON HIS BEHALF WOULD BE DIRECTLY OPPOSED TO THE PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING OUR BILATERAL REALTIONS AND IN THE JOINT DECLARATION OF OUR TWO PRESIDENTS, AS WELL AS CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF THE
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VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE.
--WE ASK THAT THE DECISION OF THE SENATE BE OVERTURNED AND THAT IT NOT BE APPROVED BY THE HOUSE.

2. SETTING ASIDE THE PAPER HE WAS READING FROM, VERES THEN TOLD ME THAT WHILE THE 32 YEARS SINCE THE END OF THE WAR MAY SEEM LIKE A LONG PERIOD OF TIME, YUGOSLAVS CONSIDER

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THE PERIOD TO BE SHORT. THERE ARE NUMEROUS MEMORIES HERE
OF DRAZA MIHAJLOVIC AND HIS MOVEMENT. THIS MOVEMENT
OPPOSED THE YUGOSLAV PEOPLE AND IS SO CHARGED IN THE COURT
OF HISTORY. APPROVAL OF SUCH A MONUMENT WOULD NOT BE GOOD FOR
THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO
COUNTRIES.

3. STATING THAT I WOULD BE REPORTING DEMARCHE IMMEDIATELY
TO WASHINGTON, I REPLIED WITH FOLLOWING:
--THE SENATE'S ACT CAME AS A SURPRISE AS WELL TO
THE DEPARTMENT, WHICH HAD NOT LEARNED THE SENATE HAD PASSED
THE BILL UNTIL BELOVSKI RAISED THE MATTER WITH DEPUTY
SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER.
--THE SENATE'S ACTION WAS TAKEN EARLY IN THE NEW
TERM, BEFORE THE SENATE WAS FULLY ORGANIZED. IT CAME AS
A "CONSENT OF THE SENATE" MEASURE, WHICH REQUIRES
UNANIMOUS CONSENT BUT FOR WHICH NO COMMITTEE ACTION IS
NEEDED. AT THE TIME OF PASSAGE ONLY TWO OR THREE SENATORS
WERE ON THE FLOOR.
--I AM REASONABLY CONVINCED THAT IF NORMAL
PROCEDURES HAD BEEN FOLLOWED, I.E., IF THE SFRC HAD
CONSIDERED THE BILL, IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN PASSED.
--I UNDERSTAND THAT THE HOUSE VERSION IS IN HIRC
HANDS, AND HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT IT WILL NOT GET OUT OF
COMMITTEE.
--WE ARE TAKING CERTAIN STEPS BECAUSE WE REALIZE
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HOW SUCH A LAW WOULD AFFECT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.
--THE DEPARTMENT IS TOUCH WITH THE HIRC AND
THE LEADERSHIP TO ENSURE THAT IT IS NOT PASSED.
--IN ADDITION, IT IS IN CONTACT WITH CERTAIN
SENATORS TO SEE WHETHER THE SENATE ACT CAN BE OVERTURNED.
I DO NOT KNOW IF ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE IN THIS CASE.
--I AM WRITING TO REP ZABLOCKI, CHAIRMAN OF THE
HIRC, AND A CLOSE FRIEND OF MINE, AND TO CERTAIN SENATORS
SO THEY WILL UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ACT.
--I WILL UNDERTAKE AS WELL TO ENSURE THAT THE
WHITE HOUSE UNDERSTANDS THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH GOY
VIEWS THIS ISSUE.
--THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS OPPOSED TO THE BILL.
--WHILE I CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT THE BILL WILL
NOT BE PASSED, I AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WILL DO
EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PREVENT PASSAGE.

4. WHILE VERES MENTIONED THAT THE SENATE ACT SHOULD BE
OVERTURNED, I TOLD HIM THAT IN TERMS OF TACTICS WE MUST
FIRST TRY TO MAKE SURE THE BILL DOESN'T PASS THE HOUSE.
THEN WE CAN SEE IF THE SENATE VERSION CAN BE OVERTURNED.
I TOLD HIM THAT I WOULD TRY TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION

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FROM WASHINGTON ON THE SITUATION IN THE NEXT WEEK.

5. COMMENT: I WILL BE WRITING TO BRADEMAS AND ZABLOCKI (CC. TO DERWINSKI). REGARDING SENATE SIDE, I QUESTION PURPOSE, AS IT WOULD BE LOCKING THE GATE AFTER THE HORSE IS STOLEN. HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE H'S SUGGESTIONS ON SENATORS TO WRITE AND COMMENTS TO MAKE.

6. AS DEPARTMENT WILL NOTE, I WENT FURTHER IN TALKING ABOUT TRYING TO OVERTURN SENATE ACTION, CONTACTING HOUSE LEADERSHIP, AND ASSURING THAT WHITE HOUSE KNOWS OF SERIOUSNESS OF ISSUE THAN I HAD RIGHT TO DO ON BASIS REFTELS. I ASSUME DEPARTMENT WILL MAKE ME AN HONEST MAN. THIS IS CLEARLY A SERIOUS--AND UNNECESSARY--CHANNELGE
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TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AND I URGE DEPARTMENT TO WORK ON HIRC AND HOUSE LEADERSHIP TO SEE THAT BILL NEVER SEES THE LIGHT OF DAY. ALSO, IF THERE IS ANY POSSIBILITY OF OVERTURNING EARLIER SENATE ACTION, I RECOMMEND THAT WE GET AT IT ON URGENT BASIS.
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# Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE
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